



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 14, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 12, 2003
CWP WA-CW4103

Potato Harvest Aided by Cooler Temperatures Heavy Showers in West Halted Fieldwork, Helped Pastures

Field Crops

Around the Palouse, conditions remained dry with the newly emerged winter wheat in need of precipitation. Potato harvesters in Adams County were able to dig full days due to cooler temperatures. Irrigation in Kittitas County has mostly ceased with the last portion going to new timothy seedings. In the west, heavy rain showers throughout the week brought a halt to most field activity. Christmas tree growers were getting equipment ready for tree harvest.

Livestock

Cooler temperatures and an increase in soil moisture in the west resulted in good pasture growth. On the eastern side of the mountains, livestock producers continued to supplement water and range condition continued to deteriorate. Range and pasture conditions were 9% very poor, 34% poor, 46% fair, and 11% good. Oyster growers prepared for fall harvest with continued bedwork and equipment maintenance.

Fruits and Vegetables

Cranberry harvest was underway with good yields in Pacific County. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to report excellent sales despite rainy weather in the west. In the central region, harvest of sweet corn, onions, and carrots continued. In Douglas and Chelan Counties, apple yields were noted as being slightly down due to the "alternate" bearing year.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.1
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	18	31	49	2
Subsoil	18	37	45	0
Irrigation Water	6	8	86	0
Hay & Roughage	1	20	67	12

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	92	76	92	90
Winter Wheat Emerged	69	40	71	72
Potatoes Harvested	78	60	84	78
Corn Silage Harvested	76	47	87	88
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	96	95	76	84
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	100	99	100	100

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Corn	0	0	28	72	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Heavy rain showers throughout the week brought a halt to most field activity. Cooler temperatures and ample soil moisture resulted in the rapid greening of pastures. The rural landscape continued to be transformed into a beautiful painting, as the foliage of native trees and shrubs formed ribbons of color which cascaded down hillsides and across valley floors. Christmas tree growers were getting equipment ready for tree harvest. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to report excellent sales.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: The fall rains began to appear during the last few days of the week. The overnight temperatures were steadily dropping into the low 40's and high 30's. Most days were cloudy with intermittent sun and showers.

Pacific: Rainfall continued to renew soil moisture. Cranberry harvest was underway, with good yields. Pasture conditions improved with increased moisture. Oyster growers prepared for fall harvest with continued bedwork and equipment maintenance.

Snohomish/King: Blustery fall weather set in. Another inch plus of rain fell during the week. Pastures were again growing well. Pumpkin and apple harvest was underway.

Thurston: A week of much cooler temperatures and frequent rain showers limited field cultivation. Pastures were beginning to green up nicely due to the additional soil moisture. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to report excellent sales despite the rainy weather. River levels remained extremely low and soils were still dry below 6 inches.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Apple harvest continued. Yields were down slightly because this is the "alternate" bearing year. Dry conditions continued. Although there were scattered showers throughout the area, no measurable precipitation was received. Livestock producers continued to supplement water. Range conditions were below normal.

Franklin: The temperatures were cool. Potatoes, sweet corn, and carrots harvest continued.

Grant: Onion harvest was complete. Sweet corn and carrot harvest continued. Mustard green manure crop was in full bloom. The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 80 percent complete.

Kittitas: Close to three fourths of the calves have been shipped and most of the rest were weaned. Temperatures finally fell off, with a few nights close to freezing. Irrigation has mostly ceased with the last bit going onto new timothy hay seedings. Fall plowing was well underway on corn fields. The smell of wood stoves was in the air.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 5 degrees below normal to 3 degrees above normal, with a trace of precipitation. There were no new crop losses due to weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Precipitation was needed due to depleted soil moisture conditions. Winter wheat was in mostly fair condition but was small for this time of year, after mostly being reseeded. Growers continued to monitor fields for cheat grass infestations.

Adams (2nd Report): Cooler temperatures helped potato harvesters dig full days without incurring storage problems. Final hay cuttings were mostly up. Heavy winds on both Wednesday and Saturday dusted off dryland seedings. A little rain to settle the dust would be welcomed by most producers.

Asotin/Garfield: The weather remained dry with cooler temperatures and windy conditions. Most producers completed seeding summer fallow, with re-croppers still planting into dry soil. Emergence of the winter wheat crop was spotty due to the dry conditions. Pastures and rangeland continued to deteriorate, as there has been little or no regrowth this fall.

Lincoln: Precipitation was needed as soil moisture conditions continued to be depleted. Winter wheat was mostly emerged and in fair condition, but additional fall moisture was needed to maintain and enhance current crop

conditions. Growers continued to monitor fields for cheat grass infestations.

Stevens: Temperatures became cooler, with lows in the 30's. Producers began getting ready for winter. Calves and cull cows continued to move to market at good prices.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures helped fall seeding. A few scattered showers were reported throughout the county. Winter wheat crops emerged and were looking good. There was still great concern of continued drought conditions and the long term effect of the drought on 2004 crops.

Whitman: Light showers over the weekend delivered moisture of less than .10 inch. Conditions remained dry with cooler temperatures, and the emergence of winter wheat continued to be slow.

Whitman (2nd Report): Conditions remained dry, but temperatures began to cool off as producers wrapped up fall seeding operations. Newly emerged winter wheat looked in need of precipitation. Fall tillage operations continued, and limited field burning was conducted.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

October 14, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	45	64	55	4	35	18	0	0	1.17	0.51	6	1.85	-1.18	61	12
Everett	47	69	55	3	38	16	3	3	0.56	-0.04	4	1.27	-1.88	40	11
Hoquiam	45	64	55	-2	38	-1	0	-2	2.07	0.90	6	5.03	-0.13	97	17
Kelso	45	64	55	2	39	7	1	1	0.06	-0.66	1	0.06	-3.49	2	1
Olympia	43	70	54	3	28	11	2	2	2.08	1.31	7	3.33	-0.19	95	17
Sea-Tac	47	70	56	2	39	8	2	2	1.26	0.67	5	1.75	-1.11	61	14
Shelton	38	69	54	0	32	5	2	2	1.90	0.92	7	3.04	-1.23	71	17
Tacoma	43	72	54	0	28	3	0	0	1.39	0.80	6	2.76	-0.15	95	15
Vancouver	46	69	57	4	51	22	3	3	1.82	1.24	7	2.86	-0.13	96	13
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	32	79	51	2	21	8	3	3	0.01	-0.08	1	0.01	-0.63	2	1
Omak	26	81	53	4	32	21	9	9	0.00	-0.18	0	0.35	-0.72	33	4
Stampede Pass	32	68	44	2	9	7	0	0	2.59	1.42	6	7.10	1.77	133	14
Wenatchee	36	77	55	1	33	5	8	4	0.03	-0.04	1	0.03	-0.49	6	1
Yakima AP	31	81	53	2	31	9	4	3	0.02	-0.05	1	0.07	-0.45	13	2
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	85	54	6	40	30	12	12	0.00	-0.21	0	0.56	-0.93	38	2
Deer Park	24	78	50	-1	22	9	4	4	0.24	0.04	2	1.51	0.32	127	5
Spokane AP	33	79	53	3	33	18	9	9	0.01	-0.16	1	0.59	-0.41	59	4
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	32	79	55	-1	36	5	8	3	0.00	-0.07	0	0.21	-0.27	44	1
Moses Lake	34	80	56	2	45	14	12	7	0.01	-0.06	1	0.20	-0.28	42	3
Quincy	34	78	55	3	38	14	5	3	0.00	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.48	13	1
Ritzville	30	81	54	3	41	23	10	10	0.04	-0.10	1	0.47	-0.33	59	3
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	40	87	57	-2	52	0	12	2	0.04	-0.03	1	0.28	-0.19	60	2
Pasco	39	85	59	4	66	28	12	7	0.00	-0.07	0	0.25	-0.23	52	3
Pullman	31	81	54	4	41	23	14	14	0.03	-0.25	1	0.95	-0.48	66	6
Whitman Miss.	35	85	57	5	52	28	12	11	0.05	-0.16	2	1.31	0.30	130	6
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	79	52	-1	30	8	6	6	0.04	-0.24	1	1.61	-0.06	96	6
Lewiston ID	40	84	61	6	77	40	28	23	0.07	-0.14	1	1.12	0.01	101	5

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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